

Frederick County Ethics Commission Minutes for the Public Meeting of Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Present: Christopher Glass, Sr., Commission Member
Stephen K. Hess, Commission Member
Timothy Tosten, Commission Member
Anthony Ventre, Commission Member
Beverly Freed, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Absent: Brian Duncan, Vice Chair

The meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission began at 6:30 p.m. on July 14, 2015, in the Winchester Room on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

May 12, 2015 meeting minutes - A draft of the minutes was provided to the Commission members before the meeting. The new members of the Ethics Commission abstained from voting as they were not members of the Ethics Commission at the time and did not attend the May 12 meeting. The minutes could not be approved due to the lack of voting members present at the meeting.

Information briefing – The Senior Assistant County Attorney provided briefings on the Ethics Ordinance, the Public Ethics Law, the Ethics Commission’s Standard Operating Procedures, the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act. There was also a discussion of the recommendations issued by the Ethics Task Force with regard to changes to the law and the Ethics Commission’s procedures.

Email accounts – The members discussed the advantages of using County email accounts to conduct Ethics Commission business. The Senior Assistant County Attorney was asked to work with the County’s Information Technologies Division to create the email accounts.

Anonymous complaints – The Commission members discussed whether the Commission should change its practice of not accepting anonymous complaints. The merits on both sides were discussed, but a final decision was deferred.

Future meeting dates and times – The Commission decided that meetings would generally be held on the second Wednesday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Decision to meet to perform an administrative function – The Commission decided unanimously to conduct an administrative function meeting to discuss pending complaints.

Required information regarding the administrative function meeting – The Commission began its administrative function meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m. on July 14, 2015, in the Winchester Room on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. Present for the meeting were Mr. Glass, Mr. Hess, Mr. Tosten, Mr. Ventre, Ms. Freed, and Ms. Thall. The members discussed four pending complaints and provided direction to the Senior Assistant County Attorney on how the complaints should be handled. Direction was also provided on a pending request for an ethics review and an inquiry about a potential lobbying violation.

Adjournment

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m.

/s/
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney